

# OKINAWA MARINE

NOVEMBER 27, 2013

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## AFP, US evacuate injured in wake of Typhoon Haiyan

**Cpl. Brandon Suhr**  
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

PASAY, Republic of the Philippines — The Republic of the Philippines was struck by Typhoon Haiyan Nov. 7, bringing with it some of the most damaging winds and rain in recorded history. The storm impacted millions of people and left hundreds of thousands homeless, in desperate need of assistance.

Since the storm struck, militaries and volunteers from across the world have assisted the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Government

of the Philippines to evacuate displaced personnel needing to travel to safety.

The role of U.S. military forces during any foreign humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operation is to rapidly respond with support to help mitigate human suffering, prevent further loss of life, and mitigate greater property damage. The first stop for the majority of evacuees departing via Marine Corps aircraft has been Villamor Air Base in the capital city of Manila.

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Members of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, U.S. service members and medical personnel from the Makati Medical Center, transport an injured person from a KC-130J Super Hercules Nov. 18 at Villamor Air Base, Republic of the Philippines. The U.S. service members are with 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade in support of Joint Task Force 505. Photo by Cpl Brandon Suhr



Marines unload fuel from a KC-130J Super Hercules Nov. 14 at Tinian's West Field, Northern Mariana Islands, during exercise Forager Fury II. The Marines are with Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, Marine Aircraft Group 12, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Antonio Rubio

## Forager Fury II to exercise Marine Corps Aviation

**1st Lt. Luke B. Kuper**  
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — Forager Fury II is scheduled to take place Dec. 2 – 20 at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, Tinian's West and North Fields, and Farallon De Medinilla Target Range, Commonwealth

of the Northern Mariana Islands. FF II is firmly grounded in the successes and lessons learned from prior exercises conducted in the Mariana Island Range Complex.

During FF II, Anderson AFB will serve as the Marine Aircraft Group 12 forward

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## ROK, U.S. Marines share knowledge, prepare for future

**Lance Cpl. Donald T. Peterson**  
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION FUTENMA — Republic of Korea Marines visited Marine Corps installations on Okinawa Nov. 18 – 21 to prepare for future bilateral training between the two services and to learn more about the U.S. Marines' aviation combat element.

The ACE was of particular interest to the ROK Marines as they prepare for the scheduled stand up of a ROK Marine Corps ACE in 2017.

The visiting ROK Marines included Col. Chang Hee Yoon, the commander of the ROK Marine Corps' Amphibious Support Group, and three of his staff.

"During their visit, the ROK Marines visited Combat Logistics Regiment 35, CLR-37, 9th Engineer Support Battalion and Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 36," said Maj. Christopher E. Rabassi, the exercise planner with G-3, operations and training, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. 9th ESB and CLRs-35 and 37 are with 3rd MLG, and MALS-36 is with 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III MEF.

The ROK Marines learned about the U.S. Marine's aircraft capabilities and aviation logistics during the

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**SERVICE MEMBERS SHARE  
THANKSGIVING TRADITIONS  
WITH COMMUNITY**

**PG. 10**





**WE'RE COMMITTED  
ARE YOU?**

Sexual Assault Prevention & Response Program

# Sexual assault degrades Corps

**Lt. Gen. John Wissler**

Sexual assault is a crime and tears at the very fabric of what makes this Marine Expeditionary Force ready to successfully respond to any crisis or contingency. It is a scourge on the illustrious and proud 238-year history of our Corps. Like all crimes, sexual assault degrades unit morale and mission readiness, and the unique aspects of this heinous act destroy our core values. Ultimately, sexual assault undermines trust, which is essential to warfighting readiness. This past year has seen a renewed emphasis on preventing sexual assault while ensuring the highest quality of support for sexual assault victims and holding offenders accountable to the highest standards within the law.

In order that we may better judge our progress in realizing our goal, the Secretary of the Navy has directed the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office to conduct voluntary, anonymous, department-wide sexual assault

surveys to explore the true frequency of sexual assaults. The 2013 Department of the Navy-wide sexual assault survey can be accessed at [www.dosapro.navy.mil/donsas.html](http://www.dosapro.navy.mil/donsas.html) through Jan. 6, 2014. Your participation in this survey is essential to our efforts to end the scourge of sexual assault and is important to everyone in our Corps and the Department of the Navy.

Secretary Mabus stated, "The success of this survey, just like our larger efforts to combat sexual assault, depends on the support and contribution of sailors and Marines worldwide." I encourage every Marine and sailor to participate, and I solicit commanders and leaders at every level to encourage and facilitate participation in this survey. Your honest and forthright participation will help restore trust within our MEF, our Corps and throughout our profession of arms.

*Wissler is the commanding general of III Marine Expeditionary Force.*

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**AROUND  
THE  
CORPS**



Pfc. Christina Fuentes-Montenegro and other Marines receive final instructions prior to assaulting an objective Nov. 15 on Camp Geiger, N.C., during the Infantry Integrated Field Training Exercise. Montenegro is one of first three female Marines to graduate infantry training with Infantry Training Battalion, School of Infantry-East. Photo by CWO2 Paul S. Mancuso

Marines reload an M777 howitzer with a 155 mm artillery shell during a multiple-rounds fire mission Nov. 13 at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, as part of a two-day dual-fire training exercise. The Marines are with Battery B, 1st Battalion, 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Lance Cpl. Matthew Bragg



**OKINAWA MARINE**

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Camp Kinser  
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# Search, rescue dogs aid efforts



**Kona, a search and rescue dog from Edmonton, Canada, waits to board a KC-130J Super Hercules aircraft Nov. 19 at Villamor Air Base, Republic of the Philippines, during Operation Damayan. The search and rescue team arrived in the Philippines to search for survivors affected by Typhoon Haiyan. The aircraft is with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152, currently assigned to 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade in support of Joint Task Force 505. Photo by Lance Cpl. Luis A. Rodriguez III**

## Transition Readiness Seminar prepares service members

**Lance Cpl. Donald T. Peterson**

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

**CAMP FOSTER** — The military transition assistance program, part of Transition Assistance Management Program, underwent changes March 2012, and is now known as the Transition Readiness Seminar.

The seminar is a congressionally mandated program that all service members, who spent more than 180 days in the service, are required to take prior to retiring or separating from the military, according to Dean Daniels, the transition manager for the Camp Foster Transition Assistance Management Program, Marine and Family Programs, Marine Corps Community Services Okinawa.

The five-day seminar teaches service members how to write a resume; informs them of veteran's benefits, education and job services geared towards veterans; and budgeting skills.

"The program underwent additional changes in October 2013 and is designed to give service members the tools they need to help adjust into the nonmilitary-lifestyle," said Daniels. "The newest addition to the program is the capstone.

"The capstone provides service members the opportunity to sit down with their commanding officer, prior to getting out (of the military), and ensure they have all the tools necessary to be successful after their service is up," added Daniels.

Service members can attend the program up to 14 months prior to separation and are

required to complete it no later than 90 days before their end of active service, according to Daniels.

A unit transition counselor or career planner can schedule separating service members for the program, which is held four times a month. On Okinawa, the course location rotates between camps each week to make it more convenient for service members to attend.

"When you come speak to a career planner about wanting to (leave the service), we try and get you into the very next open course that is convenient," said Master Sgt. Marcus L. Cook, the career planner for Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, Marine Corps Installation Pacific. "Prior to us actually signing a service member up for the class, we have a process of interviews and paperwork that have to be filled out as well."

Service members are asked to complete a series of online seminars before attending TRS to prepare them to take full advantage of the program.

It is also recommended that all service members go through the program closer to 14 months prior to separation rather than 90 days prior, according to Daniels. This allows time for the service member to attend follow-on courses, prior to separation, while attending TRS.

For more information pertaining to the course, talk to your unit career planner or unit transition counselor, or visit [www.mccsokinawa.com/transition\\_and\\_employment\\_assistance/](http://www.mccsokinawa.com/transition_and_employment_assistance/).

## BRIEFS

### BEATING THE BLUES SCHEDULE

Marine Corps Community Services, Marine and Family Programs Branch, will coordinate and present Beating the Blues 2013.

Attendance is mandatory for all active duty service members assigned to III Marine Expeditionary Force/ Marine Corps Installations Pacific units on Okinawa.

The scheduled presentations are as follows:

- Camp Hansen Theater: Dec. 2-5 from 8-9:30 a.m., 10-11:30 a.m. and 1:30-3 p.m.

### OKINAWA POPS

The Pacific Okinawa Players will perform their Christmas Follies variety show at 7 p.m. Nov. 30 and 5 p.m. Dec. 1 at the Camp Foster auditorium.

This musical extravaganza will feature popular Christmas songs and a sing-along for young and old alike.

For more information, visit [www.pops-okinawa.org](http://www.pops-okinawa.org).

### NEW TRAFFIC LIGHT ON FUTENMA

Marine Corps Air Station Futenma and the Government of Japan have established a new traffic light at the intersection of MCAS Futenma Gate 3 and Highway 330 for safety reasons.

Drivers are to obey all traffic laws when entering and exiting any installation. When exiting Gate 3, be sure to stop before the yellow line and not in the cross walk.

Please drive safely and remember you are considered a professional driver in Japan.

Report any issues or concerns about the traffic light or activity around the Gate 3 area to your chain of command, the MCAS Futenma Mission Assurance at 636-3058, or the MCAS Futenma Safety Office at 636-3330.

### III MEF BAND CHRISTMAS CONCERT

The III Marine Expeditionary Force Band will perform Christmas concerts at 7 p.m. Dec. 11 at the Keystone Theater on Kadena Air Base and at 7 p.m. Dec. 12 – 14 at the Camp Foster Theater.

For more information, contact the III MEF Band at 645-3919.

**TO SUBMIT A BRIEF**, send an email to [okinawamarine.mcbb.fct@usmc.mil](mailto:okinawamarine.mcbb.fct@usmc.mil). The deadline for submitting a brief is noon Wednesday. Okinawa Marine reserves the right to edit all submitted material.



# Marines contribute to Operation Damayan with expeditionary refueling point

**Lance Cpl. Anne Henry**  
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

GUIUAN, Republic of the Philippines — Marines with 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade established a forward refueling point in Guiuan, Republic of the Philippines, Nov. 16 to support ongoing relief efforts during Operation Damayan.

Guiuan was heavily impacted by Typhoon Haiyan. Due to the city’s remote location, aircraft refuel there to facilitate the quick delivery of relief supplies and workers to Guiuan and other rural locations.

The Philippines and U.S. have delivered more than 1,200 tons of relief supplies and evacuated more than 10,000 people throughout the affected area. With the FARP in place, the process will be more efficient.

The FARP allows for the transportation of more supplies and evacuation of more people affected by Typhoon Haiyan, according to Chief Warrant Officer Daniel Gilyard, the expeditionary airfield emergency services officer with Marine Wing Support Squadron 172, currently assigned to 3rd MEB in support of Joint Task Force 505. Because of the forward location, the aircraft can be refueled closer to where they are needed most.

“It is important to have this system set up in order for the rotor aircraft to fly a full payload from here to the affected areas,” said Gilyard. “It gives them more time here where they are needed instead of flying back and forth between their home station to refuel.”

With large portions of the affected area unreachable by land or sea, the FARP brings a critical and unique asset to the relief effort, allowing aircraft to shuttle supplies around the clock, according to Lance Cpl. Colby Heabner, a bulk fuel specialist with MWSS-172.

“Our mission here at the FARP is to keep the aircraft coming in,” said Heabner. “Today we had about 13,000 gallons of fuel and refueled about 15 to 20 aircraft. The FARP itself only took us about six hours to set up.”

Haiyan impacted more than 4.2 million people from across 36 provinces in the Philippines, according to the Philippine government’s National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council.

The role of the U.S. military forces during any foreign humanitarian



**Marines refuel a KC-130J Super Hercules aircraft at a forward refueling point Nov. 18 at Guiuan, Republic of the Philippines, during Operation Damayan. The FARP is an expeditionary refueling station, providing aircraft a location to refuel locally. The capability allows the aircraft to carry more supplies and evacuate more people affected by Typhoon Haiyan. The Marines are with Marine Wing Support Squadron 172, currently assigned to 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade in support of Joint Task Force 505.** *Photo by Lance Cpl. Anne K. Henry*

assistance event is to rapidly respond with support to help mitigate human suffering, prevent further loss of life, and mitigate great property damage.

“The key to this situation is teamwork,” said Gilyard. “It is impossible to describe the kind of damage and devastation that has occurred in this country. It takes your breath away and makes you step back and think. It makes you want to be right beside those people who are out there helping.”

## Food Service Company boosts morale during field meet



**Marines with Food Service Company play volleyball Nov. 15 at Roberts Field on Camp Kinser during a field meet. The day consisted of an obstacle course, flag football, volleyball and softball. “I’m glad Marines of all ranks could come together like this to participate and have some friendly competition among platoons,” said Cpl. William I. Gordon, an assistant chief cook at the Camp Kinser mess hall with Food Service Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 37, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force.** *Photo by Lance Cpl. Diamond N. Peden*



# USNHO holds force protection exercise



**Cpl. Christopher D. Gladu apprehends a simulated suspect Nov. 20 at the U.S. Naval Hospital Okinawa on Camp Foster during a force protection exercise. The staff of USNH Okinawa hosted the exercise to train staff in the proper procedures to follow during a scenario where an armed intruder threatens the safety of patients and staff. Hospital personnel acted as victims while military policemen with the Provost Marshal's Office of Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler rehearsed their response and protocols for neutralizing the threat. Gladu is a military policeman with PMO.**

*Photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class William G. McCann*

## EVACUATE from pg 1

The journey to safety and peace of mind may not end when they arrive at Villamor. Upon arrival, evacuees are triaged to determine their health status and care needs.

Medical staff with the AFP, U.S. Navy and countless volunteers, process approximately 2,000 evacuees per day at Villamor, according to Lt. Cmdr. Eduardo M. Jimenez, the medical planner for 3rd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, III Marine Expeditionary Force, currently in support of Joint Task Force 505.

"Casualty evacuation is one of the most important things in any type of mission," said Jimenez.

U.S. personnel and AFP are working together to ensure everyone receives the appropriate medical attention.

"We had multiple (injured people) coming in today, and I was on the flight line (getting) the ambulances to the aircraft," said Master Gunnery Sgt. Jay Elliott, the operations chief for 3rd MEB.

Providing assistance to injured and displaced personnel gives the Marines a valuable life experience.

"There have been six different times I have carried people out of planes since arriving here,"

said Lance Cpl. Christopher E. Pring, a landing support specialist with Combat Logistics Battalion 4, currently assigned to 3rd MEB. "I have never been able to help this many people before, and after doing it for the first time, it has been a humbling experience."

Members of the AFP greatly appreciate the assistance the international community is providing to their country.

"The Marines are able to help us transport all of the people who are in need here," said Pvt. Lanaque R. Damilo, a security guard with the 1305th Community Defense Group, Army Reserve Command, 501st Battalion, 15th Infantry Division, Philippine Army.

Working alongside the AFP has also had a significant and positive impact on the Marines involved in Operation Damayan.

"Some of the people who come through here have lost everything they have ever known to the typhoon and they come out of the planes with a smile on their face because they are happy to see us help," said Pring. "I know they would do the same thing for me, and that makes it all worthwhile."

## FURY from pg 1

operating base and operations center. Training on Tinian's West Field includes emplacement of arresting gear and fuel storage and distribution for purposes of extending aviation training throughout the MIRC. Training on Tinian's North Field includes clearing, stripping and repairing the landing surface on Abel, Baker, Charlie, and Dog runways and the installation of matting for vertical take-off and landing of rotary and fixed-wing aircraft. These runways contain a historical significance that dates back to World War II. After the Battle of Tinian in 1944, the runways were constructed to support long-range air operations. The runways were closed in March 1947 and re-

opened in June 2012 when a KC-130J Super Hercules, assigned to 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, landed on Baker runway for the first time in 65 years.

Training on Tinian and Guam will incorporate a variety of U.S. Marine fixed wing and rotor wing aircraft. Participating U.S. Marine Corps aircraft will include FA-18 Hornets, EA-6B Prowlers and KC-130J Super Hercules. To increase joint capabilities, the U.S. Air Force and Navy will also provide aviation assets and support personnel during the exercise.

U.S. Marine Corps Forces from Marine Wing Support Squadron 171, MAG-12, 1st MAW, III Marine Expeditionary Force, have been training on Tinian's North Field since early November in order

to prepare the four runways for flight operations.

FF II provides an excellent opportunity for III MEF to demonstrate its ability to displace rapidly and generate significant combat power in an expeditionary environment. During the exercise, III MEF will plan and execute mission rehearsals designed to replicate theater specific combat conditions. Additionally, FF II will allow MAG-12 to improve aviation combat integration across all echelons of the Marine Air-Ground Task Force and heighten expeditionary readiness.

All of the training will be conducted within the scope of Environmental Impact Statements and in accordance with the existing MIRC training manual.

## PREPARE from pg 1

visit to help them develop their own aviation capabilities.

"There are a lot of logistics that are required for the aircraft wing to operate," said Maj. Tate A. Buntz, an aircraft maintenance officer with MALS-36. "We showed them all of the different sections of aviation logistics, from supply and regular maintenance, to the aircraft being broken down for unexpected maintenance, which they will need to know about while developing their force."

While learning about the logistical side of aviation, the ROK Marines were briefed by the commanding officer of MALS-36 and representatives from the maintenance, aviation supply and avionics, and ordnance departments.

An increased mutual understanding of each others' capabilities also helps each service maximize the benefits of bilateral training and increases interoperability.

"The ROK and U.S. Marine Corps plan for future training exercises at different times," said Rabassi. "To be able to schedule or work out details for future training, we had to meet up and discuss each other's capabilities."

"We are looking at some of our big (annual) exercises, like Ssang Yong, and thinking about increasing and elaborating (them) with more (combined) training during the exercises," added Rabassi.

The visit strengthened a time-tested relationship and allowed the two services to continue to build upon their operational capabilities and interoperability.

"I learned a lot of good information that will help while developing our

(aircraft wing)," said Yoon. "I did not realize how much went into maintaining readiness of the aircraft wing. This information will be useful as we start to design the logistical side of the (aircraft wing) for its stand up in 2017. I also can't wait for future training between the ROK and U.S. Marines."



**Republic of Korea and U.S. Marines discuss the logistics involved in maintaining an aircraft wing Nov. 21 at the Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron 36 headquarters on Marine Corps Air Station Futenma. The ROK Marines visited Okinawa to discuss future bilateral training and to learn about the U.S. Marines' aviation combat element. The ROK Marine Corps is scheduled to stand up an ACE consisting of UH-60P Black Hawk helicopters in 2017. The U.S. Marines are with MALS-36, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.**

*Photo by Lance Cpl. Donald T. Peterson*





**Staff Sgt. Duane C. Pineda, right, assesses a match between Lance Cpl. Brent V. Scheckel and Cpl. Logan B. Kochel during a grappling tournament Nov. 15 at Camp Foster. Pineda is a martial arts instructor with 3rd Medical Battalion, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Scheckel is an administrative specialist, and Kochel is a motor vehicle operator. Both are with 3rd Med. Bn.**

# 3rd Med. Bn. hosts grappling tournament, tests MCMAP skills

Story and photos by Cpl. Terry Brady

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

Unit events like field meets or warrior nights are routinely hosted to promote unit cohesion and help Marines and sailors maintain a positive focus on everyday life.

3rd Medical Battalion expanded upon that concept by conducting a grappling tournament Nov. 15 on Camp Foster designed to increase morale and promote the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program among the Marines and sailors of the unit.

"We had a great turnout for this event," said 1st Lt. Andrew J. Gelbach, the Headquarters and Services Company commander with 3rd Med. Bn., 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. "We had 25 participants in the tournament and around 120 spectators who supported them."

"Being a small battalion, and with many from the unit having already left for the Philippines, the amount of people who showed up to the event is incredibly significant," added Gelbach.

Several martial arts instructors were present during the tournament to enforce safe and proper techniques while corpsmen were present to ensure that the Marines and sailors were able to participate in their matches without injury.

"I am a big proponent of MCMAP, and our battalion (considers it very important)," said Gelbach. "It is great that we are getting both Marines and sailors into the program, and this event is a great representation of that support."

Following an explanation of the rules and regulations for the tournament, the Marines and sailors were placed into brackets based on their weight class.

"A lot of people, including myself, have been (engaged) in MCMAP since we have arrived on island," said Lance Cpl. Derris L. McCastle, a small-arms repairer/technician with the battalion. "(The tournament) improves our grappling techniques, and allows us to analyze how people perform during their matches."

The contestants were instructed to conduct each bout in the kneeling position to ensure that excessive force was not used. During the tournament, the participants grappled during five 60-second rounds. The winners were determined by one participant conceding the match, or one participant displaying overall dominance over their opponent during the match.

"The Marines (and sailors) performed really well during their specific matches," said Staff Sgt. Duane C. Pineda, a martial arts instructor and a water support technician with the battalion. "Some of them have developed better grappling techniques and all of them have improved their stamina."

The winners of each match progressed to the next round to determine first and second place respectively. The loser of each round, prior to the final round, would be set in a losers' bracket to determine who would take third place in the tournament.

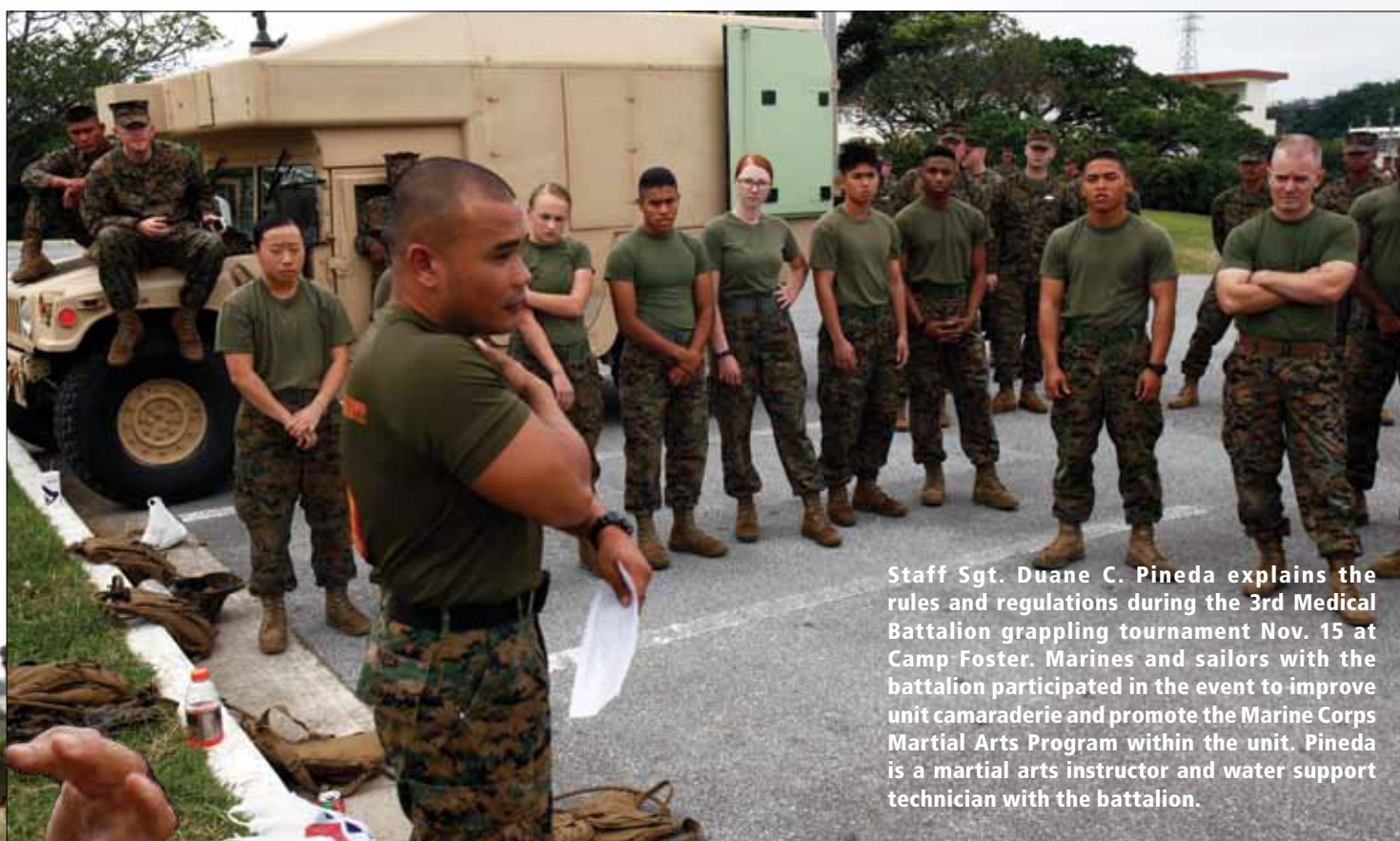
"You can hear the spectators coach the participants during their matches," said Gelbach. "That's the type of support we're looking for during this event."

Among the winners of the tournament were Navy Lt. Joseph F. Labarbera for the heavyweight class, Seaman Justin B. Hampton for the welterweight class, and McCastle for the lightweight class. Labarbera is the administration officer with S-1, administration, 3rd Med. Bn., and Hampton is a hospital corpsman with the battalion.

The attendance, enthusiasm and participation from the battalion have kept this tournament an ongoing event, according to Pineda.

"The (battalion commander) said she wants more events like this in the future," said Pineda. "Anything that increases fitness, competition and morale is positive for the battalion."





Staff Sgt. Duane C. Pineda explains the rules and regulations during the 3rd Medical Battalion grappling tournament Nov. 15 at Camp Foster. Marines and sailors with the battalion participated in the event to improve unit camaraderie and promote the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program within the unit. Pineda is a martial arts instructor and water support technician with the battalion.



Seaman Kamaal R. David, top, grapples with Navy Lt. Joseph F. Labarbera Nov. 15 at Camp Foster during the 3rd Medical Battalion grappling tournament. The unit conducted the event to show how important fitness and MCMAP are in the Marine Corps. Labarbera is the administrations officer, S-1, administration, 3rd Med. Bn., 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. David is a hospital corpsman with the batalion.



Navy Lt. Joseph F. Labarbera, center, stands in front of an audience after the 3rd Medical Battalion grappling tournament Nov. 15 at Camp Foster. Labarbera finished in first place for the heavyweight class bracket during the tournament. Labarbera is the administrations officer, S-1, administration, 3rd Med. Bn., 3rd MLG, III MEF.



# Children, service members give thanks

**Lance Cpl. Matthew Myers**

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

**M**arines and sailors with Combat Logistics Regiment 35 brought holiday cheer to the Tai Chu En Children's Home Nov. 22, celebrating the Thanksgiving holiday and feast with the home's residents.

The event had an American Thanksgiving themed, according to Lt. Cmdr. Harvey Macklin, the command chaplain with CLR-35, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

"The liaison for the (children's home) talked about how we could show some of our American culture so Thanksgiving was perfect for us because that's a very big day in America," said Macklin. "The school thought this would be a good relationship builder."

The Marines and sailors taught the children about Thanksgiving traditions and brought them holiday cheer and cross-cultural awareness.

"We called it a traditional Thanksgiving because we had our Marines and family members put together Native American and pilgrim headbands," said Col. Anthone R. Wright, the commanding officer of CLR-35. "We really wanted to show the Japanese students here what Thanksgiving was like when it was created in the United States."

The children learned about Native Americans and pilgrims, and colored Thanksgiving-



**Lance Cpl. Jetzannette Delgadolopez colors a picture with a child at the Tai Chu En children's home Nov. 22 during a Thanksgiving event. Delgadolopez is a field radio operator with Combat Logistics Regiment 35, 3rd Marine Logistics Group, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Lance Cpl. Matt Myers**

themed pictures.

Following the arts and crafts, the children were served a traditional Thanksgiving dinner. It was the first Thanksgiving feast for most of the children and many of the staff.

"For many of the children here, this is the first time they have ever had turkey," said Macklin.

During the feast, the children were shown a Thanksgiving cartoon that illustrated the first and most famous Thanksgiving in Plymouth, Mass., a celebration similar to their own.

"The Marines have been doing a great job," said Yoshi Yehera, a staff member at the children's home. "Everything they do makes the children and staff happy."

The service members and children shared equal feelings of holiday joy and happiness.

"We're definitely bringing holiday spirit and cheerfulness to these kids," said Sgt. Marion Davis, the regimental ammunition chief with CLR-35. "Seeing the kids laughing, smiling and having a good time makes it all worth it."

## Marines share Thanksgiving traditions at nursing home

**Lance Cpl. Diamond N. Peden**

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

**T**he sweet aroma of pumpkin and apple pies flow through the room as Hikari Ga Oka Nursing Home residents make their way to their tables, casting longing glances at the turkey centerpiece.

Service members with 7th Communications Battalion shared a Thanksgiving meal with the residents and staff of the nursing home Nov. 21 in Kin Town, continuing a two-decade old annual tradition.

"It's a blessing because they don't celebrate Thanksgiving here in Japan," said Navy Lt. Stephen F. Brown, the chaplain for 7th Comm. Bn., III Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, III MEF. "It's an American holiday and we bring that American tradition to the nursing home so they can enjoy one of our most special holidays."

Traditionally in the U.S., families celebrate Thanksgiving with their loved ones by gathering together for a day to share in a feast and give thanks for what they hold most dear.

For service members stationed on Okinawa, Thanksgiving is a time for sharing and connecting with the community who are their neighbors and hosts.

"I think Thanksgiving is a great time to open your home," said Maj. Matthew C. Frazier, the acting battalion commander of 7th Comm. Bn. "In this case, it is a time to extend your home to celebrate the season."

To honor this custom, the Marines and residents sang a song, ate traditional Thanksgiving food and spent time getting to know one another.

Thanksgiving is just one of the many events that the nursing home residents and the service members share annually to promote lasting friendships.

"We'll celebrate Thanksgiving and we'll celebrate Christmas," said Brown. "Those are two of the big holidays we share with them and in turn, they share with us a rice-pounding (event), a moon viewing (event) and an end of the year party."

"It's a cultural exchange, and it gives us a greater appreciation for their background and the things they appreciate," added Brown.

The service members, residents and staff of the nursing home



**Sae Afuso, left, and 1st Lt. Gregory M. Macias talk to each other during a Thanksgiving-themed meal Nov. 21 at the Hikari Ga Oka nursing home. Afuso is a resident at the home, and Macias is the officer in charge of the Armory with 7th Communications Battalion, III Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, III MEF. Photo by Lance Cpl. Diamond N. Peden**

improved relationships with each other by playing charades and talking using the shared words they could both understand.

"I talked to one of the young Marines next to me," said Sae Afuso, a resident of the nursing home. "The Marine happened to speak a little Japanese, so we could communicate."

Throughout the years, the battalion's Marines and sailors have continued to volunteer their time with the nursing home, bonding and learning the traditions that the residents value.

"The really neat thing about this is that we have an exclusive relationship with this place," said Frazier. "They've come to know us over the years and it will continue on as long as there is a 7th Communications Battalion and a Hikari Ga Oka (Nursing Home)."

Overall, the Marines and residents enjoyed their time with each other while sharing the Thanksgiving experience.

"Today's event was very enjoyable," said Afuso. "I really appreciate it and the meal was very delicious."





**Pfc. Anthony D. Black turns on an auxiliary power unit to start an engine on a KC-130J Super Hercules aircraft May 8 at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma. Black is crewmaster a with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.**  
Photo by Lance Cpl. Henry J. Antenor

# Crewmasters serve as jack-of-all-trades

**Lance Cpl. Henry J. Antenor**

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

**W**ith the flip of a switch, a crewmaster turns on an auxiliary power source to prepare the aircraft's engines for startup. Moments later, the engines of the KC-130J Super Hercules roar to life as lights flicker in the cockpit, granting access to the pilot interface.

Marine crewmasters serve as a crossbreed of the crew chief and loadmaster job specialties, putting in the work to make KC-130J flight operations possible.

"Two years ago, we started getting brand new guys out of school called crewmasters," said Staff Sgt. Christian Villalobos, a crewmaster formerly with Marine Aerial Refueler Transport Squadron 152, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, now with "The Blue Angels" or Naval Flight Demonstration Squadron. "Before, there was only a crew chief and I was the loadmaster; after receiving additional training and learning how to do each other's jobs, we're now crewmasters."

Prior to the military occupational specialty integration, the job of crew chiefs consisted of preparing flight operations, refueling the aircraft, and surveying the aircraft for any damages, mechanical or system errors. They also acted as assistant pilots in case of an emergency.

The loadmasters assumed different responsibilities that varied based on the mission.

"In the back of the aircraft, (loadmasters were) the eyes of the pilot and the other (Marines) in the cockpit," said Villalobos. "We'll also observe the aerial delivery of troops, cargo, and inflight refueling."

The loadmasters' job also consisted of loading cargo or troops onto the aircraft before the flight, or offloading when they land.

The crewmaster's job integrates both sets of responsibilities: loading and unloading the plane, surveying its structural integrity

for flights, supervising in-flight refueling or aerial delivery and still acting as an emergency co-pilot.

The crewmaster is a vital part of the squadron's operations since a flight would not occur if crewmasters were not present, according to Villalobos.

"For the (KC-130Js) to be part of any exercise or mission, they're going to need us," said Villalobos. "In order for the aircraft to take off, they're going to need the crewmaster to check the plane, load it, and help operate it. Without us, they won't be able to launch the plane."

The integration of the job fields allows one enlisted Marine to do the work of two, lessening the manpower needed on a flight and increasing operational ability.

The combined workload of two specialties is significant, according to Pfc. Anthony D. Black, a crewmaster with the squadron.

"We show up early, get the plane ready, get the cargo situated, and plan out the logistics," said Black. "You're expected to do the operational side and the loading by yourself. For new guys, it's a tough and steep learning curve, but it eventually gets easier."

The crewmasters work together with the pilots during the flight to assure operations and training run smoothly.

"Pilots handle communications, check for weather patterns and steer the aircraft, while the crewmasters keep a lookout for everything else," said Villalobos. "We're a team helping each other out to achieve the mission."

The heavy workload of the job is offset by the chance to travel and participate in unique opportunities including the 70th anniversary commemoration of the Battle of Guadalcanal.

"I got to meet leaders from around the world and ambassadors whose countries were part of World War II," said Black. "The (KC-130Js) were also recognized by the commandant for bringing the band. My job is tough, but it is very rewarding."

## Post office Marines give it their all

**Lance Cpl. Diamond N. Peden**

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

**A**cross the world, family members and friends send presents and mail to show their love, care and support for their loved ones away from home.

For service members and Status of Forces Agreement personnel on Okinawa, sending and receiving mail is an exciting process that maintains a connection between loved ones.

"You're spending your holidays away from your family and friends, so any little thing that can remind you of (home), like getting presents (in the mail) for kids, brings a sense of excitement, joy and anticipation," said Gunnery Sgt. Thurman McNeill Jr., the staff noncommissioned officer in charge of the Camp Foster Post Office. "You know it's going to bring smiles to kids' faces on Christmas day. We make that happen."

Recently, U.S. post offices across Okinawa posted flyers encouraging people to mail their letters and packages early to ensure the items get to their destination before the holidays.

On an average day, Marine installations on Okinawa receive about 500 pieces of mail, according to Lance Cpl. Stephen M. Lasalle, a postal clerk with the Consolidated Post Office, Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler, Marine Corps Installations Pacific. During the holidays, the number of mail triples and for the month of December they receive approximately 24,000 pounds of mail.

The post office Marines and master labor contractors quickly form a line ready to scan bar codes and put the mail in its respective place, according to Schellentrager.

The Marines and MLCs work long hours with quick lunch breaks on busy days to make sure the mail is delivered on time. One way people can help is to send their mail out early.

"Our job is to deliver the mail on time," said Carlos Goya, an MLC at Camp Foster's post office. "Nobody can move the time. We need the help from the customers and the community to make this mission possible."

The post office Marines and MLCs share the joy of giving and receiving packages and want to extend that joy to others by getting their mail to them in a timely manner.

"Receiving a package is the best feeling in the world because it's like a little taste of home," said Schellentrager. "Your mom, your brother, your sister, someone who cares about you, wrote this for you."

If personnel wish to send their packages first class, the deadline for mailing is Dec. 20, priority mail is Dec. 21, express mail is Dec. 22, parcel post is Dec. 14, and the parcel airlift mail deadline is Dec. 3.



# ARFF Marines train for any emergency

Lance Cpl. Nicholas S. Ranum

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

**When potential panic involving a downed aircraft ensues, the Marines of Aircraft Rescue and Firefighting act as one of the first response teams on the scene. With the raging flames engulfing the aircraft, the ARFF Marines quickly rush to work dowsing the flames in a relentless battle against time and heat.**

ARFF Marines on Marine Corps Air Station Futenma stand ready to respond to any crisis 24/7.

"We provide the air station with fire prevention and protection for permanent and transient aircraft," said Chief Warrant Officer Brent DeBusk, the officer-in-charge of ARFF, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, MCAS Futenma, Marine Corps Installations Pacific. "We also support the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing when they conduct training.

"An example of that is when a squadron deploys as part of a Marine expeditionary unit. We help train them in shipboard firefighting; they have to know (it) before they leave," added DeBusk.

Training with Marines and sailors is only one way the Marines of ARFF help MCAS Futenma.

"We also train with fire departments from local communities in hands-on exercises and quarterly tabletop exercises," said DeBusk. "We not only train with them, but can also help them should they need it."

To accomplish their missions, the Marines have specialized tools and vehicles at their disposal.

"We have six P-19 ARFF vehicles, two rescue vehicles and one water tender," said DeBusk. "The P-19s are the main firefighting vehicle with the rest acting as support."

No matter what the vehicle is, the Marines have to perform checks every morning to ensure proper readiness of the equipment.

"After the Marines have looked over the vehicles at the station, we do a wet run," said



**Marines extinguish a fire on a mobile aircraft fire training device Sept. 18 at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma. During the training, a senior ARFF specialist stands near the Marines extinguishing the fire to ensure they practice the proper techniques. The Marines are ARFF specialists with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron.**

Photo by Lance Cpl. Natalie M. Rostran

Staff Sgt. Michael L. Rivera, a section chief with ARFF. "A wet run consists of the Marines driving the trucks out onto the taxiway and then testing both turrets and all of the hoses on the vehicle."

Being able to put out the fire is only half of the battle that these Marines face.

"On the rescue vehicles we have the wheel fan, which can be used to cool down hot brakes or wheels, and to ventilate rooms when required," said Cpl. John E. Stitt III, an ARFF specialist. "We also have a combination tool, shears, blocks, airbags, medical equipment, a buddy breather, fire extinguishers and a K-12 fire rescue saw."

Each piece of equipment is used in its own way to save lives during a rescue.

"The combination tool is a combination of the shears and spreaders," said Stitt. "The airbags are used to raise an aircraft or vehicle off the ground and then the blocks are used to stabilize it. The K-12 is the other tool in our arsenal for getting into an aircraft."

The tools to extract personnel from downed aircraft or vehicles are used in conjunction with life saving equipment.

"We have first aid equipment to take care of many injuries," said Stitt. "Some of our more crucial pieces of equipment are the neck and back braces that keep the victim from shifting unnecessarily, preventing further injury."

The medical supplies are futile in effect if the firefighters' personal

equipment are not working properly.

"Our masks and tanks have (attachments) that make our jobs easier while suited up," said Rivera. "The mask has a mouthpiece that is synched with the radio to allow better communication between personnel. The tank has two stages of pressure reducers which allow us to breathe uninterrupted and without worry."

"There's also an alarm system that lets the firefighter know when the air (is low)," added Rivera. "Our computer system lets us know where the Marines are and if they're moving. That allows us to keep track of the Marines when they do their jobs."

All of the equipment and vehicles allow the Marines to perform their specialty with precision and confidence.

"The Marines perform an excellent balancing act with all of the required actions that they do every day, not to mention the training required by the Marine Corps," said DeBusk. "They work some of the longest and toughest hours of any military occupational specialty in the Marine Corps. They do not get holidays, long weekends or much family time. They sacrifice a lot for this but they enjoy what they do."

**Marines extinguish a fire on a mobile aircraft fire training device Sept. 18 at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma. The device is self-contained, uses propane, and can only be extinguished by stopping the fuel source. The Marines are aircraft rescue and firefighting specialist with Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, MCAS Futenma, Marine Corps Installations Pacific.**

Photo by Lance Cpl. Natalie M. Rostran





# In Theaters Now

**NOV. 29 - DEC. 5**

## FOSTER

**TODAY** The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG13), 4 p.m.; The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (3-D) (PG13), 6 p.m.; Delivery Man (PG13), 10 p.m.  
**SATURDAY** The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (3-D) (PG13), noon and 8 p.m.; The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG13), 4 p.m.  
**SUNDAY** Frozen (PG), 1 p.m.; Frozen (3-D) (PG), 4 p.m.; The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (3-D) (PG13), 7 p.m.  
**MONDAY** Delivery Man (PG13), 7 p.m.  
**TUESDAY** The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG13), 7 p.m.  
**WEDNESDAY** The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (3-D) (PG13), 7 p.m.  
**THURSDAY** Delivery Man (PG13), 7 p.m.

## KADENA

**TODAY** Frozen (3-D) (PG), 1 p.m.; Delivery Man (PG13), 4 p.m.; The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG13), 7 & 10:30 p.m.  
**SATURDAY** Frozen (PG), noon; Frozen (3-D) (PG), 3 p.m.; The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG13), 6 & 9:30 p.m.  
**SUNDAY** Frozen (3-D) (PG), noon; Delivery Man (PG13), 3 & 6 p.m.; The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG13), 9 p.m.  
**MONDAY** Frozen (PG), 4:30 p.m.; The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG13), 7:30 p.m.  
**TUESDAY** Delivery Man (PG13), 4:30 p.m.; The Best Man Holiday (R), 7:30 p.m.  
**WEDNESDAY-THURSDAY** Closed

## COURTNEY

**TODAY** The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (3-D) (PG13), 6 p.m.  
**SATURDAY** Frozen (3-D) (PG), 3 p.m.; The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG13), 6 p.m.  
**SUNDAY** Frozen (PG), 3 p.m.; The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG13), 6 p.m.  
**MONDAY** Delivery Man (PG13), 7 p.m.  
**TUESDAY** Closed  
**WEDNESDAY** Carrie (R), 7 p.m.  
**THURSDAY** Closed

## FUTENMA

**TODAY** The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (3-D) (PG13), 6:30 p.m.  
**SATURDAY** Thor: The Dark World (3-D) (PG13), 4 p.m.; The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (3-D) (PG13), 7 p.m.  
**SUNDAY** Delivery Man (PG13), 4 p.m.; The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG13), 7 p.m.  
**MONDAY** About Time (R), 6:30 p.m.  
**TUESDAY-THURSDAY** Closed

## KINSER

**TODAY** The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG13), 6:30 p.m.  
**SATURDAY** Frozen (PG), 3 p.m.; Delivery Man (PG13), 6:30 p.m.  
**SUNDAY** Frozen (3-D) (PG), 1 p.m.; Delivery Man (PG13), 3:30 p.m.; The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG13), 6:30 p.m.  
**MONDAY-TUESDAY** Closed  
**WEDNESDAY** About Time (R), 6:30 p.m.  
**THURSDAY** The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG13), 6:30 p.m.

## SCHWAB

**TODAY** Delivery Man (PG13), 6 p.m.; The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG13), 9 p.m.  
**SATURDAY** Delivery Man (PG13), 6 p.m.; The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG13), 9 p.m.  
**SUNDAY** Delivery Man (R), 4 p.m.; The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG13), 7 p.m.  
**MONDAY** Metallica: Through the Never (3-D) (R), 7 p.m.  
**TUESDAY** Delivery Man (PG13), 7 p.m.  
**WEDNESDAY-THURSDAY** Closed

## HANSEN

**TODAY** The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG13), 6:30 p.m.; Delivery Man (PG13), 10 p.m.  
**SATURDAY** Delivery Man (PG13), 6 p.m.; The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG13), 9:30 p.m.  
**SUNDAY** Delivery Man (PG13), 2:30 p.m.; The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG13), 6 p.m.  
**MONDAY** About Time (R), 7 p.m.  
**TUESDAY** Delivery Man (PG13), 7 p.m.  
**WEDNESDAY** Runner Runner (R), 7 p.m.  
**THURSDAY** The Hunger Games: Catching Fire (PG13), 7 p.m.

## THEATER DIRECTORY

**CAMP FOSTER** 645-3465  
**KADENA AIR BASE** 634-1869  
**(USO NIGHT)** 632-8781  
**MCAS FUTENMA** 636-3890  
**(USO NIGHT)** 636-2113  
**CAMP COURTNEY** 622-9616  
**CAMP HANSEN** 623-4564  
**(USO NIGHT)** 623-5011  
**CAMP KINSER** 637-2177  
**CAMP SCHWAB** 625-2333  
**(USO NIGHT)** 625-3834

Movie schedule is subject to change without notice. Call in advance to confirm show times. For a complete listing and 3-D availability visit [www.shopmyexchange.com](http://www.shopmyexchange.com).



# SINGLE MARINE PROGRAM EVENTS

For more information or to sign up, contact the Single Marine Program at 645-3681.

## DUCK AND COVER GOLF TOURNAMENT

• SMP will be hosting a "Duck and Cover Golf Tournament" Dec. 6 at Taiyo Golf Course. Registration begins at 6 a.m. and shotgun starts at 7 a.m. Sign up with your SMP office by Nov. 29.

## NEO PARK TRIP

• Take an adventure and see all that Neo Park has to offer with SMP Dec. 15. Transportation will be provided from the Foster Field House at 8 a.m., Futenma Semper Fit gym at 8:15 a.m. and Kinser gym at 9 a.m. Sign up with the SMP by Dec. 12.

Mention of any company in this notice does not imply endorsement by the Marine Corps.

# TEST YOUR CORPS KNOWLEDGE:

What weapon system allows both increased firepower at the individual level and the ability to mark targets from a distance?  
 See answer in next week's issue

## LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Which Marine claims the title of most prolific sniper in Marine Corps history?

## ANSWER:

Chuck Mawhinney, who holds the record for most confirmed kills by Marine Corps sniper with 103 in addition to another 216 probable kills during the Vietnam War.



## Japanese phrase of the week:

“Gochiso sama deshita.”

(pronounced: goh-ch-so sah-mah desh-ta)

It means “Thank you for the food.” (said after eating to show respect to all who made the food possible)

# CHAPLAINS'

CORNER

“There is so much to be grateful for and so much to pray about.”



# Ideas to enjoy the holidays

**Lt. Cmdr. Matthew S. Weems**

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION FUTENMA CHAPLAIN

“It’s the most wonderful time of year.” I know, now the tune is stuck in your head. Unfortunately, with the business of life this season can easily slip into fake smiles, overeating, depression and a general “Is it over yet?” attitude. I want to give you four ideas that might help you break out of that cycle: grace, goodness, generosity and gratitude.

What does it mean to show grace to someone? One definition of grace is “unmerited favor.” What would it look like for you to show someone else honor or do that little something extra for them? We tend to wait for others to move first at this point. What if we preempted that by looking for ways to make someone else feel special?

When I use the word goodness I’m

thinking of the “naughty or nice” idea here. Smile, laugh, let someone else go first. In other words, be good!

It is better to give than receive, right? Take the time to look around you. Who could benefit from your generosity? If you have more than you need then you have been blessed. Maybe it is time you bless someone with your generosity. What about your neighbor? That mom or dad who may be frazzled from having to carry the load while their service member is forward, or that new spouse or service member who is away from home for the first time. They also need generosity.

Finally, like I say to my kids all the time, “Let’s have an attitude of gratitude.” There is so much to be grateful for and so much to pray about. Take the time to reflect about how you can apply grace, goodness, generosity and gratitude to your life.

FOR UPCOMING SPECIAL WORSHIP SERVICES AND EVENTS FOR ALL MARINE CORPS BASE CHAPELS, CALL 645-2501 OR VISIT [WWW.MCIPAC.MARINES.MIL](http://WWW.MCIPAC.MARINES.MIL) AND LOOK UNDER “AROUND MCIPAC”